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**EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF JAMES B.
LONGACRE.**

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[James Barton Longacre was born in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, August 11, 1794. His earliest forefather in this country was Anders Långåker, a Swede, who was settled on the banks of the Delaware before 1648. At school he excelled in drawing and mathematics, and at an early age began to study engraving in Philadelphia. From 1819 until 1831 he illustrated some of the best works published in the United States, as for instance, Sanderson's "Lives of the Signers." In 1833, with James Herring, of New York, and afterwards alone, he issued "The National Portrait Gallery of Distinguished Americans," in which many of the engravings were from sketches by his own hand. Of this important publication no less an authority than W. Loring Andrews said, in 1902, "It is a book which deserves to be well bound, for it contains the finest cabinet-sized steel engraved portraits ever executed in this country. This truth we have been slow to recognize, as also the fact that the book is becoming difficult to find." From 1844 until his death, Mr. Longacre was engraver to the United States Mint, and designed all the new coins that were struck during this time, such as the twenty-dollar, the three-dollar, and the one-dollar pieces, the nickel five-cent, the three-cent, and the small copper one-cent. In 1867 by permission of the authorities in Washington, he was employed by the government of Chili to remodel the entire coinage of that country, following their original designs made in France. The reason for this recoinage, was the slight relief of the original coins, which permitted them to be too easily worn away. Mr. Longacre felt this to be a gratifying public approval of his own coin work. He died in Philadelphia, on January 1, 1869, aged seventy-four years.—A. M. L.]

Tuesday July 12. 1825.—Left Philad^a in company with Mr. Jno. Neagle in the Steam Boat Trenton for New York. On account of the lowness of the tide in the Delaware the boat landed her passengers 6 miles below Trenton on the Pennsylvania side, where the stages were waiting. We suffered from the heat of the weather and the dust in riding. We arrived at Bunker's, Broadway, New York about 7 P. M. Much genteel company at the house, among the rest Gen^l Lafayette.

Wednesday July 13.—We found the accommodations at Mr. Bunker's very agreeable. Made an engagement to go out with Mr. Henry Pickering, at 10 o'clock; in the meantime Neagle and I called on Mr. Catlin, Rem. Peale and P. Maverick respectively. Visited the Academy of Fine Arts with Mr. Pickering, in co. Messrs. Neagle and Catlin. Saw Col. Trumbull, who showed us a beautiful miniature of a protégé of his, a fine looking young man in a British military dress, painted by Robertson of London, brother to Mr. Robertson of the N. Y. Academy. The statues in the N. Y. Academy are in better preservation than those in the Penn^a Academy. We then visited the panorama of Athens by Barker, under the care of Mr. Vanderlyn;—it is the largest and the best, in many respects, I have seen. I do not think it superior, if equal, to the panorama of Paris by the same artist *in effect* but the execution is unrivalled, particularly that of the figures. But even the *effect* is such that a little enthusiasm will transport the spectator, in imagination, to Modern Greece. We called then, to see Mr. Paff's collection of paintings; some of the old pictures are valuable and curious. A sketch by Rubens, in color (Mars and Venus) is undoubtedly genuine; two heads by Rembrandt, very good,—a curious small painting, (Esther before Ahasuerus) which is called a Van Dyke. In the evening, with the same company, took a walk through the Castle Garden. The scene was to me, novel, gay, and exhilarating; the handsome appearance of the ladies, the lights, the music, the refreshing sea breeze seemed to breathe upon the soul an air of enchantment.

July 14. Thursday.—Mr. Neagle, Mr. Catlin and myself set out to visit some of the artists in the morning. We called first on Mr. Morse, found him well, and were very handsomely received by him, and much interested by his conversation, which, on almost every subject but particularly on the arts, is rich and instructive. He had a very fine portrait nearly finished of Prof. Silliman, of Yale College. It would do credit to any painter with whose works I am ac-

quainted. From his house, walked to that of Mr. Durand the Engraver. Saw some of Mr. Durand's paintings in oil: they are certainly very respectable, and would bear an advantageous comparison with the works of most of our professional portrait painters. The remainder of this day I spent at Mr. Maverick's, making some alterations in the plate of Dewitt Clinton.

Friday July 15.—I went with Mr. Pickering to see a collection of lithographic engravings; some were very favourable specimens, particularly a set of views in Venice, printed on India paper — the sketchy groups of figures, animals and pieces of landscape were very meritorious. Mr. Neagle and I called on Mr. Wall. I saw but a few of his paintings, but they were sufficient to give me a very high idea of his powers. Though always an admirer of water colour paintings, I did not know their excellence before—the perfect illusion, particularly of the still water in Mr. W's paintings surpasses any work of the same character in oil that I have ever seen. Mr. Neagle Mr. Catlin and myself took a ride in the afternoon around the environs of the city of N. Y. in company with Mr. Maverick—returning, took tea and spent the evening with Mr. M.

Saturday July 16.—Mr. N. and I took our passage on board the Olive Branch Steam Boat for Albany. On ascending to the upper deck I was agreeably surprised to find seated under the awning Mr. S. of Philad^a his lady and sisters. The ladies like myself were strangers to the scenery of the Hudson River and the pleasure of contemplating for the first time its grand and beautiful banks was greatly heightened by the communication and interchange of our mutual impressions. In the morning the Palisade rocks on the west side elicited our admiration, but these were almost forgotten in the afternoon and evening through the magnificence of the Highlands. The most impressive, wild and new to me were the rocks on the water side near West Point, rising out of the water, smooth and bare like a leaning wall overhung by the most beautiful bushes and evergreens.

Immediately after passing West Point we perceived the celebrated ruins of Fort Putnam, partly hid by the mantle of trees and shrubbery which covered its lofty and commanding site. We lost these beautiful hills and the sunshine nearly at the same time. We took our last look at them from the town of Newburgh on the west bank where the Steam Boat stopped for a few minutes and the night soon after closed around us, bringing a most refreshing coolness. The night was pleasant, and much to my regret Mr. S. and his company were to leave the Boat at Catskill where we expected to arrive at 11 or 12 o'clock P.M. Mr. N. and myself determined to keep them company on deck. At the request of the ladies we brought up our flutes and played some airs together, and on some were accompanied by the voice of one of the ladies. Our music though simple appeared to delight the strangers by whom we were surrounded and its salutary effect was remarked by one of the ladies, and I believe by us all, in regard to their behaviour. We had witnessed some degree of rudeness during the day, as indeed might be expected in such a motley collection, but our little plaintive melodies seemed to quiet every boisterous feeling and we experienced nothing but the most respectful attention. We accompanied Mr. S. and his interesting party in the boat which landed them at Catskill and in the darkness of the night took leave with strong feelings of regret. It was the closing scene of a day to which I shall long look back with pleasure.

July 17.—The Steam Boat arrived at Albany a little before 6 A.M. We took our seats in one of Mr. Young's stages (after some annoyance from the drivers and owners of various coaches and stages soliciting our custom) for the Saratoga Springs where we arrived about 2 P.M. after a warm and not very comfortable ride. I should except, that the coach on account of its spring-cushion seats was so remarkably easy that, combined with the melting influence of the atmosphere, it rocked and swung the whole party to sleep, except the driver. We took dinner at the United States, with two

Bostonian gentlemen who rode with us from Albany, Messrs. Draper and Lamsden whose intelligence and agreeable manners made us regret parting with them. We found on inquiring at Albany that the stage for Boston by way of Bennington, V^t ran but three times a week (we had previously agreed to adopt this route) so we decided to take the first stage leaving Albany at 2 A.M. on the 18th. This made it necessary for us to procure a conveyance from the Springs, so as to meet the stage at Lansingburg before 4 A. M. We left the Springs at 6 o'clock P.M. & reached Lansingburg about 11.

July 18.—We took our seats in the stage about daylight, and after travelling through an interesting and varied country we reached Bennington at 11 A.M. and soon after began to ascend the Green Mountains. We reached Brattleboro' about 9 P.M. and were called to take the stage for Boston at 15 minutes past twelve.

July 19.—Before daylight we found our stage filled with passengers, taken up some for Boston and some for other places on the road. The day proved very warm, and being crowded in the stage our situation was far less pleasant than on the preceding day. We breakfasted at Athol, dined at Lancaster, Mass, and arrived at Boston about 11 P.M. stopping at The Exchange where the accommodations are good in most respects.

July 20.—We took a carriage and called on Mr. Stuart, were very handsomely received by him; his age does not appear in the least to have impaired his faculties so far as judgment and conversation are concerned. His powers are still displayed in his most recent pictures; they are full of likeness and animation. We then went out to Bunker's Hill and saw the foundation stone of the monument to be erected. Returning, called on Mrs. Burr and agreed to take boarding with her the next day. In the afternoon we rode over to Cambridge Port to call on Mr. Dowse; left my letter without seeing him. We then went to Cambridge, saw the College; a beautiful situation, spacious buildings,

lawns and handsome trees. We proceeded afterwards to an elegant village and settlement called Brookline, through a delightful country. In the evening, at 8 P. M. we called on Mr. Allston at Rouillard's Restorator. Found him at dinner; we sent up our letters, (our names having been requested); after waiting a few minutes Mr. Allston entered the parlour, and received us very cordially. He took us up to his dining room (quite private) and invited us to partake of his wine and cigars. His appearance indicates delicacy of temperament and constitution. He, however, said he was well. We conversed on various subjects, generally connected with the arts till 11 P.M.

July 21.—Mr. I. P. Davis accompanied Mr. Neagle and myself to the Athenæum where we saw a fine head by Stuart of the founder Mr. Perkins, among a variety of interesting and tasteful objects. There is a copy by Leslie of B. West, after Sir Thomas Lawrence, presented to the institution by my friend Mr. Pickering. We then went with Mr. Davis to Faneuil Hall, saw a fine military whole length portrait of Washington by Stuart of which I had not before even heard. In the afternoon went with Mr. G. W. Pratt to see Allston's Florimel at Mr. Williams'. Then to Mr. Pratt's to see the portrait of Col. Pickering by Stuart, a most noble painting. There were some other good paintings and fine engravings: one by Longhi of Milan after Raphael; a fine mezzotint of the *Chapeau de paille* from Rubens.

July 22.—Neagle went to see Stuart and showed his portrait of Mr. Carey, which he had nearly faltered in, in spite of all my exhortations and entreaties.

July 23. Saturday.—In the morning I called on Mr. Stuart—much interested in his conversation from 11 till nearly 2 o'clock. We were in his painting room. Among other things he told me that the portrait of Washington from which Heath's engraving was made, was painted by him (Stuart) for William Bingham of Philadelphia, and delivered under an express stipulation that it was not to be copied or engraved. Mr. Bingham subsequently presented

the picture to Lord Lansdowne, without any reference to this stipulation. After the engraving was published and offered for sale in Philadelphia to the surprise and vexation of Stuart, he called on Mr. Bingham and reminded him of the stipulation under which he had parted with the portrait, the fact of which was not denied. But on asking Mr. Bingham how he proposed to compensate him for the injury he had sustained by the publication of the print, Mr. Bingham replied—"Have you anything to show for it?"—which ended their intercourse, Stuart leaving him abruptly and indignantly without further remark. Went later with Mr. I. P. Davis to see the portraits of J. and J. Q. Adams at Mr. Cruft's. Mr. Cruft politely offered me an opportunity of copying the head of J. Q. Adams by Stuart. We then called to see a portrait by W. West, (now in Europe), on which picture so many encomiums had lately been passed in the papers; did not think it extraordinary.

July 24, Sunday.—Visited the Methodist Church Bromfield Lane in the morning. In the afternoon called on Mrs. S. daughter of Mr. Stuart, & went, by her previous invitation to Dr Greenwood's church. Called later for Mr. Neagle to go to Mr. Stuart's to tea. Spent the evening most agreeably indeed in the rich and instructive conversation of Mr. Stuart.

July 25. Monday.—From 12 to 2 with Mr. Stuart's daughters. Then Neagle and I visited the painting rooms of Mr. Alexander, Mr. Mason, Miss Goodridge and Miss Schetky; saw only the ladies.

July 26.—Took a carriage at 8 o'clock, called for the daughters of Mr. Stuart and Miss Wheeler, a niece of Dr Bigelow, and went out to Cambridge Port to see the collection of Mr. Dowse. Most remarkable are the water colour copies from the Marquis of Stafford's collection. They are exquisitely beautiful, and surpassing in delicacy of execution. Dined with Dr Taylor. Called on Mr. I. P. Davis, went with him to see Leslie's portrait of Sir W. Scott at Mr. Ticknor's, also a painting by Mr. Allston. Then to see Mr.

Codman's collection. A superb still-life painting, Flemish, some beautiful landscape and cattle pieces. Spent the evening at Mr. Stuart's with his family and Misses Schetky and Goodridge.

July 27. Wednesday.—Began a drawing at Mr. S. A. Wells' of Samuel Adams from Copley. Dined and spent the evening with Mr. Allston. He was pleased to speak very handsomely of my engravings, particularly the small portrait of Jackson, said the head alone would not disgrace the best engravers of the English school. He has had only two of his designs engraved and published, both of which he is dissatisfied with; a third, he paid for the plate (25 guineas) to prevent its being published. He speaks in the highest terms of Sir Joshua Reynolds, considers him superior to Van Dyke, and the founder of the excellence which distinguishes the modern English schools of painting and engraving.

July 28.—Finished my drawing of Mr. Samuel Adams or sufficiently so for the time. Spent the evening at Mr. Stuart's.

July 29. Friday.—Began my drawing of Col. Pickering from Stuart's painting in possession of Mr. W^m Pratt. Went with Mr. Allston, who called on Mr. Neagle and myself for that purpose, to see a fine painting by Stuart of Gov. Phillips, at the Hospital. We accepted Mr. Allston's invitation to dine with him at Rouillard's at 3 o'clock P.M.

July 30 Saturday.—I took passage on the SteamBoat Patent for Nahant, at 9 A.M. and had a fine opportunity of seeing the beautiful harbour of Boston; in going down observed the porpoises and seals swimming in the harbour.

July 31.—In the afternoon went with Mr. Neagle and Mr. Stuart's four daughters to Dr Gardner's church. Heard the Dr preach a funeral sermon on Mrs. Winthrop.

August 1. Monday.—At work on my drawing of Col. Pickering.

Aug. 2nd.—At the same.

Aug. 3rd.—Finished my drawing of Col. Pickering. Com-

menced, at Mr. Cruft's my drawing of J. Q. Adams, from portrait painted by Stuart Aug. 1818.

Aug. 4th.—At the same.

Aug. 5th.—Still with my drawing of J. Q. Adams.

Aug. 6th.—Finished my drawing of J. Q. Adams, to the satisfaction of Mr. Cruft who is to write to the President of the U. S. (whose property the picture is) for his permission for me to engrave it, which Mr. Cruft is anxious I should do.

Met unexpectedly with Mr. Marston of the United States Navy who had just received orders to join the Brandywine Frigate, appointed to convey Gen. Lafayette to France. Concluded to join him the following morning to set out for Philad^a. I saw Mr. Webster this morning at his office. He thinks his portrait in the hands of Mr. Stuart will be finished in October ensuing; says he will call on me on his way to the South in the autumn. I called in the afternoon to take leave of Mr. Stuart's family, and in the evening on Mr. I. P. Davis who was pleased with my drawings of Pickering and J. Q. Adams; he said he had conversed with Mr. Stuart on the subject of my engraving the latter, who was desirous that I should do it.

Aug. 7.—Set out in the stage for Providence R. I. leaving Boston at half past four, A.M. Arrived at Providence between 10 and 11 and reached Norwich, Conn. about half past seven P.M. Took the Steam Boat Fanny, Capt. Davidson, for New York. Through the politeness and attention of the captain I was enabled to deliver my letters while the boat held on at the wharf at New London. We reached New York about 2 P.M. Stopped at Bunker's.

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